

What is an Illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is defined as: "any discharge into a municipal storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater". Pollutants that fall into this broad category are:

- Car wash wastewater
- Gas and motor oil
- Grass clippings and leaves
- Household cleaners
- Paints
- Fertilizers & Pesticides
- Pet waste
- Solvents
- Weed killer
- Grease from restaurants
- Chlorinated Pool Water
- Concrete wash water
- Sediment
- Septic Tank Effluent

Sometimes these pollutants are carried through the storm drainage system by rain, wind or improper disposal into a river. This results in serious health and water quality problems. In addition, wildlife and the overall appearance of rivers and creeks are adversely affected by illicit discharges.

SEVEN EASY WAYS YOU CAN KEEP ILLICIT DISCHARGES OUT OF OUR RIVERS AND CREEKS

There are several simple steps we can take to help solve some of our creek and river problems.

1. **Used oil, antifreeze and batteries** can be recycled. Clean up spills immediately. Kitty litter or saw dust will absorb the spills. Be sure to sweep up afterwards.
2. Wash your car on the grass so **water, detergent and dirt** will be filtered by the soil. Another option is to go to a commercial car wash where dirty water is sent to the wastewater treatment plant.

3. Empty bottles of **household cleaners, pesticides and weed killer** should be disposed of according to label directions.
4. **Grass clippings and leaves** in the street should be swept up. If left in the street, they are being washed into or could plug the storm sewer. This can lead to street flooding, less capacity to transport storm water and can cause algae blooms in creeks and rivers.
5. Many household products, including **paint, paint thinners and solvents** can be taken to the hazardous waste dump off site or recycled. Paint brushes with water based paint can be rinsed in the sink. Small amounts of left over paint can be allowed to dry or mixed with kitty litter to dry. Once completely dry, it can be placed in the trash.
6. When walking your pet, use a bag or scooper to clean up the **pet waste**. In order to keep animal waste from contaminating our community, anyone who walks a pet should properly dispose of the waste by picking it up, wrapping it and either placing it in the trash or flushing it unwrapped.
7. Apply **fertilizer and pesticides** according to label instructions. Applying too much is not beneficial and the excess will run off. In addition, applying just before or during a rain will cause it to run off, contaminating our creeks and rivers.

Reporting of Illegal Dumping or Suspicious Discharges

To control illegal dumping, participation from the public and City staff is important. Residents who observe illegal dumping or observe pollutants within waterways or storm sewers should immediately contact the City of Woodstock Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118.